

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
August 12, 2014

Fisheries Under Consideration: Non-Indian Commercial Mainstem

Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for the 2014 fall season were presented in Fall Factsheet #1 (July 29,2014)

STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- The preseason forecast for fall Chinook is over 1.5 million adult fish to the Columbia River. The forecast exceeds the record-breaking return of 2013. Bonneville Dam passage is expected to total over 1.1 million upriver fall Chinook adults.
- The preseason forecast for the combined Group A/B steelhead return to Bonneville Dam totals 272,400 fish, which is less than average. Counts of steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 total nearly 125,000 fish.
- The preseason forecast for coho is 638,300 adult fish to the Columbia River. The forecast is greater than average and includes 367,100 early stock and 271,200 late stock. Bonneville Dam passage is expected to total 193,500 adult coho.
- The 2014 fall season for Columbia River non-Indian fisheries was developed through the North of Falcon process consistent with ESA constraints and Commission guidelines.
- Under the current management agreements, research and test fishing activities conducted in the Columbia River operate under a minimal amount of ESA-impacts set aside specifically for research/test purposes.

2014 NON-INDIAN FALL FISHERIES

Mainstem Commercial Fall Fisheries

- The Early Fall fishery is underway and expected to continue through August. Season structure consists of three (9-hour) fishing periods per week (Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday) in Zones 4-5 using large mesh (9-inch) gear. Commercial periods are in place through August 22.
- Chinook landings from the first full week of the Early Fall season total 200 fish, which is much less than the 2,200 expected.
- The Late Fall fishery is expected to begin the week of September 14 in Zones 4-5.
- Coho-directed fishing periods are expected to begin in early October and will likely occur in Zones 1-3.

<i>Recommendation: 2014 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Early Fall Fishery</i>	
Season:	9 PM Sunday August 24 to 6 AM Monday August 25 (9 hours) 9 PM Tuesday August 26 to 6 AM Wednesday August 27 (9 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5. The deadline at the lower end of Zone 4 is defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore.
Sanctuaries:	Washougal and Sandy Rivers
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 9-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple net rule NOT in effect, which means nets not authorized for this fishery may not be onboard. Lighted buoys required.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, pink, and sockeye salmon and shad
Additional Rules:	<u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.

- Adopting the proposed fisheries at this time will assist with consideration of additional fisheries during the last week of August without risk of exceeding the commercial harvest guideline.
- The preseason model projects catch for these two periods at 33,000 Chinook.

Mainstem Commercial Fisheries – Alternative Gear

- In 2013 the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions each adopted a 10-year policy promoting the development and implementation of alternative selective gears and techniques for mainstem Columbia River commercial fisheries.
 - During the transition period (2013-2016) described in the policies, the departments (WDFW and ODFW) are to investigate and promote the development and implementation of alternative selective gear.
 - Fishery objectives for these alternative selective gear types are to provide area-specific opportunity to target abundant hatchery stocks, reduce the number of hatchery-origin fish on natural spawning areas, limit mortalities of non-target species and stocks, and provide economically viable commercial fishing opportunities.
- At the time the policies were adopted, seine gear was not legal for commercial use in the Columbia River. Oregon took legislative action (Senate Bill 830) to allow the use of seine gear. Washington’s “legislative track” was the “emerging fishery” regulation that allows experimental fishery permits to be issued for commercial harvest in an emerging fishery that will have limited entry.
- Work Groups were formed and public meetings were held during 2013-14 to collect information and input from industry on how best to design and implement a pilot seine fishery.
- Staff worked with NOAA fisheries to identify available ESA impacts sufficient to cover a pilot seine fishery for the fall of 2014.
- In late May 2014, all Columbia River Gillnet license holders were notified that applications were being accepted for a random drawing to select participants in a seine research fishery.

- In July, permits were awarded that allowed the use of seine gear in the Columbia River for commercial purposes. A total of six beach and four purse seine permits were issued. These permits expire at the end of the year.

Technical Aspects

- Based on research conducted by WDFW, TAC developed release mortality rates to use for a pilot seine fishery in 2014.

TAC Release Mortality Rates		
2014	Beach	Purse
Chinook	34.3%	22.5%
Coho	38.4%	28.9%
Steelhead	8.3%	3.3%

- ESA impacts available for a 2014 pilot seine fishery are research impacts and are separate from “full fleet” fishery impacts. Because the available ESA impacts are minimal, the harvestable catch available to the seine fisheries is limited.

Allowed ESA Research Impacts and 2014 Accounting						
Salmonid	Chinook			Coho	Steelhead	
Stock	SRW	LRH	LRW	LCR	Wild A	Wild B
Allowed Impact Rates	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.30%	0.30%
Planned Research Activities	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.08%	0.02%	0.02%
Balance	0.46%	0.46%	0.46%	0.42%	0.28%	0.28%
Maximum Modeled Seine Impacts	0.41%	0.21%	0.02%	0.34%	0.04%	0.22%
Balance	0.05%	0.25%	0.44%	0.08%	0.24%	0.06%

- Gear-specific individual fish quotas (IFQs) have been calculated based on available research impacts and assigned to each permit.
- Recognizing the difference in operating costs associated with beach and purse seining, staff has assigned the IFQs differentially between gear types. The IFQs assigned for each permit based on gear type are provided here:

2014 Fall - IFQ Limits - Research Seine		
	Beach (6)	Purse (4)
Adult Chinook kept	500	750
Adult coho kept	250	450
Steelhead handle	360	360

- Objectives for this research pilot fishery are to determine steelhead to Chinook handle ratios by gear and zone, collect salmon catch rates by gear type during a large run year, and compare immediate release mortalities observed in this pilot fishery to those observed during previous research.

<i>Recommendation: 2014 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Research Fishery</i>	
Participants:	Those individuals possessing a 2014 seine permit issued by Washington or Oregon (Emerging Fishery license and Experimental Fishery Permit in WA; Experimental Gear Permit in OR). Permit holder/designated fisher must be present during fishing operations and have applicable permits/licenses in possession.
Season:	Open hours are 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (13.5 hours)
Week 34	Tuesday August 19 and Thursday August 21, 2014 2 periods
Week 35	Tuesday August 26 and Thursday August 28, 2014 2 periods
Week 36	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday Sep. 2,3,4 3 periods
Week 37	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday Sep. 8,9,10,11 4 periods
Week 38	Monday September 15 and Wednesday September 17 2 periods
Week 39	Monday September 22 and Wednesday September 24 2 periods
Week 40	Monday September 29 1 period
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River in Zones 1-2 through August 28; Zones 1-5 thereafter.
Sanctuaries:	Elochoman-A, Cowlitz, Kalama-A, Lewis A, Sandy, Washougal and Select Area commercial fishing sites.
Gear:	<p>Beach or purse seine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only one net is allowed per vessel. - Mesh size restricted to a 3.5-inch maximum (inside of knot to outside of knot using hand tension stretched measure). - Net material to consist of 3-strand nylon; twine size \geq#12. - Seines may include a bunt of 1.0-2.0 inch knotless mesh. - Net length not to exceed 200 fathoms (including associated lead nets). Net depth not to exceed 200 meshes (approximately 50 feet) - Seine and lead lines may not be connected. Lead nets must be retrieved daily. - No restrictions on corkline, leadline or use of stringers and slackers. - A chafing strip panel consisting of non-monofilament webbing (such as nylon seine web or polyethylene trawl web) is allowed on bottom of net; maximum panel depth is 5-feet. Chafing mesh not to exceed 3.5-inch stretched measure for beach and 5-inch stretched measure for purse. There are no restrictions associated with hangings used to connect the net to the chafing panel or the net or chafing panel to the leadline or corkline. - Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.
Allowable Sales:	Subject to IFQs as defined on individual permits. Adipose or left ventral fin-clipped Chinook, adipose-clipped coho, pink and sockeye salmon. All legal salmon caught must be kept and sold.
Handling/Sorting	Hand sorting or use of a knotless dip net is required for sorting. All fish must be sorted and/or released prior to removing entire seine from water. Dry sorting not permitted.
Sort time	<p><u>Not to exceed 75 minutes.</u></p> <p>Beach seine - defined as the elapsed time from when the outer towed end of the net first contacts the shore or block until the net is emptied of fish.</p> <p>Purse Seine - defined as the elapsed time from when all rings are pursed and out of the water until the net is emptied of fish.</p>
Observer Program	Mandatory
Quick-Report:	<u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.

- The season structure and gear regulations were developed based on input from the commercial industry.
- Season total landings are subject to the IFQs outlined on each permit. Combined landings are expected to total 6,000 adult Chinook and up to 3,300 adult coho.
- Modeled mark rates were estimated at 36% for adult Chinook and 61% for adult coho.
- Ex-vessel prices (per pound) during the first week of the 2014 fall season averaged \$3.00 for brights and \$0.50 for tule Chinook.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Staff is recommending a hearing be scheduled for 10 AM Tuesday August 26 via teleconference to consider non-Indian commercial fisheries and review ongoing recreational fisheries.